THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2728

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

22 May 1997

AM 10:00 CONVENE, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Administration of oath of office to Emily Malino and Ann Todd Free.

B. Approval of minutes:

17 April 1997

C. Dates of next meetings:

19 June 1997
24 July 1997
18 September 1997
16 October 1997 - **Changed** from originally scheduled date of 23 October

D. Demolition of 3245 "O" Street, N.W. Report.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. <u>National Park Service</u>

CFA 22/MAY/97-1, The White House. Periphery security measures adjacent to grounds of Sherman Memorial and First Division Memorial. Concept Design.

B. <u>Washington Convention Center Authority</u>

CFA 22/MAY/97-2, New Convention Center. Mount Vernon Square between 7th and 9th streets and Mount Vernon Square Place and N Street. Design development. Information review. (Previous: CFA 17/APR/97-1.)

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 22 May 1997

C. General Services Administration

CFA 22/MAY/97-3, Ronald Reagan Building/ International Trade Center. Federal Triangle. Security elements, flags and banners, awnings. Design.

D. Department of the Treasury

CFA 22/MAY/97-4, U.S. Mint. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Commemorative one dollar silver coin. Design.

E. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

CFA 22/MAY/97-5, North and south parking deck extensions; revised entrance drive approach. Further studies. Conceptual. (Previous: CFA 19/OCT/95-11.)

F. Smithsonian Institution

1. CFA 22/MAY/97-6, National Air and Space Museum. Pedestrian guardrails at areaways. Conceptual. (Previous: CFA 17/MAR/94-9.)

2. CFA 22/MAY/97-7, National Air and Space Museum. Exterior glass replacement for exhibit areas. Inspection results. (Previous: CFA 14/DEC/95-2.)

G. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Old Georgetown Act

Appendix I.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. SL 97-48, 1300 Maryland Avenue, S.W. The Portals. New hotel. Conceptual.

b. Appendix II.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 22 May 1997

H. District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development

CFA 22/MAY/97-8, Washington Marina, Maine Avenue. Installation of helipad, business offices and ancillary structures for sightseeing company. Conceptual.

OLD GEORGETOWN SUBMISSIONS

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 97-19 HPA. 97-50	2715 M Street, N.W. Embassy of Uruguay	Flagpole, sign and plaque - conceptual

ACTION: Returned without Action. Resubmit drawings with revised design for location of sign, plaque and flagpole for review by the Commission when ready.

O.G. 97-44 HPA. 97-102	2733 P Street, N.W. William Kappaz Residence	Third floor addition on rear - conceptual

ACTION: Recommend **AGAINST** concept design of third floor addition as shown. Revised design is not sufficiently improved to be acceptable. Recommend renewed study with focus on an addition that would appear subservient in character to existing structure.

O.G. 97-51 HPA. 97-129	3307 Q Street, N.W. Mr. & Mrs. Krasnow Residence	Rear addition - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 23 April 1997.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 97-54 HPA. 97-140	3067 Canal Towpath, N.W. Cahen and Coppock The Fourth Lock	Projecting sign and window replacement - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for projecting sign reading "The Fourth Lock" to be located between sill of second floor window and lintel of entrance door. Window repair and replacement-in-kind, including restoration of existing exterior window framing elements and repair of sills in place, is approved in concept ONLY. Final approval will be based on submission of appropriate window replacement sample with details of fixed muntins matching existing.

O.G. 97-59 HPA. 97-145	3141 P Street, N.W. Noel Evans Residence	Rear one story addition - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design for proposed addition to rear of existing structure as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 12 May 1997. Submit working drawings with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

O.G. 97-65 HPA. 97-158	3236 Reservoir Road, N.W. Barbara Gamarekian Residence	Alterations for basement entrance - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations for basement entrance as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 14 May 1997 which indicate retention of existing retaining wall and plantings separating walkway from driveway.

O.G. 97-67 HPA. 97-168	1421 37th Street, N.W. Georgetown University Poulton Hall	Emergency generator and enclosure - conceptual

ACTION: Returned without Action. Case superseded by case O.G. 97-83.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 97-70 HPA. 97-183	2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Georgetown Plaza Associates Four Seasons Hotel	Roof terraces, replacement of windows and alterations to health club - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations for existing health club, replacement of current fixed office windows with Vitrasil bronze finish operable windows, additions to roof for emergency stair egress, and addition of three penthouse roof decks.

O.G. 97-71 HPA. 97-184	3412 P Street, N.W. Wayne Smith Residence	Alterations to rear - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to general concept design for alterations to rear of existing residence. Submit working drawings with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

O.G. 97-72 HPA. 97-206	3210 M Street, N.W. 3210 M Street, L.L.C. Commercial/residential	"Firehouse" door replacements - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for installation of proposed doors as shown in supplemental drawings indicating "Option" received and dated 7 May 1997. The rear addition, which is not visible from public space, is referred to the Historic Preservation Review Board for review. See previous Action (O.G. 97-46).

O.G. 97-73 HPA. 97-185	2900 N Street, N.W. Mr. & Mrs. Costam Residence	Alterations to rear for new windows and French doors - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations for new windows and French doors at rear of residence. Working drawings conform to approved concept. See previous Action (O.G. 97-8).

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 97-74 HPA. 97-187	1545 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Chevy Chase Bank	Pre-fabricated guard house - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed pre-fabricated, movable guard house for parking lot of Chevy Chase Bank as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 22 May 1997.

O.G. 97-75 HPA. 97-189	3077 M Street, N.W. 3067 M Street. L.L.C. Retail/commercial	Alterations to streetfronts - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations to street frontage ONLY. Work does NOT include 1207-1209 31st Street or rear portions of existing structures. Working drawings conform to approved concept. See previous Action (O.G. 97-33). Submit working drawings for rest of project with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

O.G. 97-77 HPA. 97-191	3323 P Street, N.W. Mr. & Mrs. Moore Residence	Second floor addition over garage - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition of second floor over existing garage. Working drawings conform to approved concept. See previous Action (O.G. 97-27).

O.G. 97-79 HPA. 97-193	1815 Wisconsin Avenue,N.W. BLIXN Koons et. al. Next Day Blinds	Back-lit sign, and awning - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed awning and back-lit sign composed of 12 inch high pin-mounted letters reading "Next Day Blinds" as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 13 May 1997.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 97-80 HPA. 97-194	3233 Reservoir Road Robert Bass Residential garden	Landscaping and fence - conceptual

ACTION: Returned without Action. Case superseded by case O.G. 97-84.

O.G. 97-82 HPA. 97-209	3313 P Street, N.W. Martin and Elizabeth Evans Residence	Alterations to rear - conceptual

ACTION: Returned without Action. Proposed work is not visible from public space. Refer to the Historic Preservation Review Board.

O.G. 97-84 HPA. 97-214	3233 Reservoir Road, N.W. Robert Bass Residential garden	Landscaping and fence - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed partial removal of existing retaining wall and driveway, regrading of site and installation of new iron fencing and landscape material. Working drawings improve upon approved concept. See previous Action (O.G. 96-156).

O.G. 97-86 HPA. 97-217	1224 30th Street, N.W. Nancy M. Gray - trustee Residence	Roof replacement and repair work - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed replacement of metal roof, chimneys and partial replacement of wood siding, all to match existing. Proposed work is repair, maintenance and replacement in-kind.

STATUS REPORT

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 97-76 HPA. 97-190	3061 M Street, N.W. The Levy Group World Watch International	Alterations to storefront - conceptual

STATUS: On HOLD for Old Georgetown Board meeting 5 June 1997 for further discussion with applicant.

O.G. 97-81 HPA. 97-195	3220 O Street, N.W. Lotta Chi Morrone's Italian Ice	Alterations, awning and sign - permit

STATUS: On HOLD for Old Georgetown Board meeting 5 June 1997 for further review at the written request of applicant.

O.G. 97-83 HPA. 97-212	1421 37th Street, N.W. Georgetown University Poulton Hall	Emergency generator and enclosure - conceptual

STATUS: On HOLD for Old Georgetown Board meeting 5 June 1997 for further discussion with applicant.

ADDENDUM

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 97-44 HPA. 97-102	2733 P Street, N.W. William Kappaz Residence	Third floor addition on rear - conceptual

STATUS: On HOLD for future Old Georgetown Board meeting for further discussion by written request of applicant.

SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 97-36 HPA. 97-141	1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW District of Columbia Wilson Building	Alterations and rear addition - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed rear addition and alterations to the Wilson Building, including new handicapped access ramp and entrance on Pennsylvania Avenue and new lobby for the existing monumental entrance, as reviewed by the Commission at their meeting 20 March 1997. See attached letter to the Council of the District of Columbia dated 31 March 1997.

S.L. 97-45	525 23rd Street, N.W. Pan American Health	Roof antennas - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed installation of three pairs of antennas mounted flush to the walls of penthouse. Antennas will be painted a color similar to, and no lighter than, the penthouse.

S.L. 97-46	8216 West Beach Drive, N.W. Brenda Morris Residence	Rear addition - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition to rear as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 20 May 1997. Supplemental drawings indicate new window opening and a brick in-fill of existing door opening.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 97-47	600 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Boston Properties USDA Graduate School	Addition to penthouse for new mechanical equipment - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design of proposed addition to penthouse for new mechanical equipment associated with the USDA Graduate School. Screen wall will match detailing and color of existing penthouse. No objection to concept of alterations of windows for louvers to match existing condition elsewhere on building. Submit working drawings with permit application for review by the Commission when ready.

S.L. 97-49	2500 Calvert Street, N.W. OMNI Hotels Shoreham Hotel	Mechanical equipment and alterations - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design for proposed rooftop mechanical equipment painted to match color of existing brick work, on building, and to new through-the-wall unit grilles to match existing larger grilles elsewhere on building.

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COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS PRE-MEETING TOUR

22 May 1997

CONVENE: 8:00 AM, Pension Building, Suite 312,
441 F Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20001

1. The White House and Grounds. Security alterations along E Street at the Sherman and First Division memorials. Renovation of service access.

2. Air and Space Museum between 4th and 7th streets on Jefferson Drive. Inspection of glass mock up.

Members Present:
J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Carolyn Brody
Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel
Ann Todd Free
Emily Malino
Eden Rafshoon
Harry G. Robinson, III

Staff Present:
Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Jeffrey R. Carson

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

22 May 1997

The meeting was convened at 10:15 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices in the Pension Building, 441 F Street, N.W., after a tour of project sites.

Members present: Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. Harry G. Robinson, III, Vice-Chairman
Hon. Carolyn Brody
Hon. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel
Hon. Ann Todd Free
Hon. Emily Malino
Hon. Eden Rafshoon

Staff present: Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mrs. Sue Kohler
Mr. José Martínez-Canino

National Capital Planning Commission staff present: Ms. Margot Stephenson

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Administration of oath of office to Emily Malino and Ann Todd Free. The Secretary administered the oath of office to Ms. Malino and Mrs. Free, and they were welcomed to the Commission by the Chairman and the other members.

B. Approval of minutes of the 17 April meeting. The minutes were approved without objection.

C. Dates of next meetings, approved as:

19 June
24 July
18 September
16 October (Changed from originally scheduled date of 23 October)

D. Demolition of 3245 "O" Street, N.W. Report. The Secretary reported that this house had been demolished earlier in the month, in spite of the Commission's recommendation against demolition at the April meeting, and the efforts of other groups, including neighbors and the ANC, to save it. He said it seemed there had been a deliberate attempt on the part of the owners to let the house deteriorate by neglect, to the point where the District Government allowed the demolition permit to be issued primarily on the issue of public safety. He said there was a proposal, supported by the ANC, to enact a new law that would require owners to take care of their property, and he asked if the Commission would like to support it. The members agreed unanimously that the effort was worthy of the Commission's support.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. National Park Service

CFA 22/MAY/97-1, The White House. Periphery security measures adjacent to grounds of Sherman Memorial and First Division Memorial. Concept design. Staff member Jeffrey Carson pointed out the panels on display showing photographs of existing conditions and simulated photographs showing proposed changes. He noted that the members had seen the site on their pre-meeting tour and then introduced James McDaniel, the Park Service's White House liaison.

Mr. McDaniel recalled that security restrictions had been imposed throughout the White House area two years ago by the Treasury Department and the Secret Service, and he said the Park Service had then worked with them to try to make the requirements compatible with the dignity of the area. He introduced Dennis Strah, landscape architect for this project noting that Mr. Strah had also worked on the White House complex master plan.

Mr. Strah said there were four vehicular entrances into the area, and there needed to be a sense of order and a heightening of the visitor's sense of arrival at the White House, the focal point of the entire complex. He said his approach to the security requirements was based on the use of a wall system with a carnelian granite veneer, interspersed with areas of black steel bollards similar to those now in place on the south lawn. He observed that this system would allow for the flexibility needed to accommodate the grade changes on the site.

Mr. Strah commented on the plans shown on each panel. In the First Division Memorial area, the plan was to frame the memorial and draw people into the park area. He pointed out work to be done immediately and more extensive work to be done

in the future, as the White House comprehensive plan was implemented. At West Executive Avenue, a key arrival point for the West Wing and the OEOB, iron gates and brick piers would resemble those elsewhere on the grounds but would be scaled down to a more pedestrian 7 feet in height. The same gate would be used at East Executive Avenue. At Sherman Park, a wall would be used on 15th Street and at Hamilton Place, since a retaining function was needed; bollards would be used around other parts of the memorial. Mr. Strah said any impact on the roots of existing trees by the wall construction would be mitigated by the type of fill material used and the drainage systems installed; he said a horticulturist had been working with them on this potential problem.

Ms. Diamonstein asked about the height of the wall and was told it would be approximately 36 inches. She asked if a less pink-colored granite could be used, and Mr. Strah said he had considered that, but found that the warmer colored material blended better with the landscaping. She asked how the wall terminated where the bollards began and was told it ended in a barrel form, a form seen at the Sherman Memorial and also at Pershing Park. Ms. Diamonstein then asked if the gates would all be consistent and similar to others on the grounds; she was assured that they would be.

The Vice-Chairman asked why bollards alone could not be used; Mr. Strah said he was afraid that would create what he called a maze of bollards, and also, retaining walls were needed in some situations. Mr. Robinson thought the walls gave too much dominance to the corners, and Ms. Diamonstein agreed they were too extensive. Ms. Brody agreed with Ms. Diamonstein that the granite was too pink and disruptive; she said she liked the grey stone and green grass combination now existing and thought the new stone should be keyed to that. Mr. Strah said he would bring samples of a grey stone.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman returned to a discussion of the walls, commenting that they were not needed except as necessary in conjunction with the gates and where a retaining function was required, as at the Sherman Memorial. In contrast, the First Division Memorial and its park were on level ground and needed only the bollards, as a kind of fence. There was a general consensus that the color of the walls should be grey, not pink. It was also thought that the temporary barrier shown at E Street and East Executive Avenue should be formed by planters, not by a Jersey barrier-type structure with a stone facing.

Mr. Strah said he would send further drawings based on the members' comments, and he noted that the guardhouses shown in the photographs would be submitted separately. Exhibit A

B. Washington Convention Center Authority

CFA 22/MAY/97-2, New Convention Center. Mount Vernon Square between 7th and 9th streets and Mount Vernon Square Place and N Street. Design development. Information review. (Previous: CFA 17/APR/97-1.) For the benefit of the new members, Mr. Carson sited the proposed new structure and talked briefly about its design, as previously seen by the Commission. He introduced Allan Lew from the Convention Center Authority, and architects Marshall Purnell, Thomas Ventulett, and Ted Mariani; Mr. Lew said a few words about progress made in the last month, and then asked Marshall Purnell to begin the presentation.

Mr. Purnell said he wanted to focus attention on the southern portion of the building, and particularly on the south facade as it faced Mount Vernon Square and the old Carnegie Library. First, for purposes of review, he discussed the plan and the location of the major spaces. He reviewed the division of the building into three sections and the organization of each section into 90-foot bays, divided again into 30-foot bays to break down the scale. He showed elevation drawings, pointing out the extensive use of clear glass, especially on either side of L and M streets where it would help to open them up visually. He said the south facade had gone through several changes since the Commission had last seen it, and he asked Tom Ventulett from Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates to discuss the progress.

Mr. Ventulett recalled that he had shown the members a perspective of this facade at the last meeting, and it had not really recognized the line of 8th Street. He said he had been listening to a number of people about how to do this and he had new sketches to present. He recalled also that glass had been used on the corners of the south facade to minimize the bulk of the building in relation to the Carnegie Library and also to provide views out to various parts of the city. At that time the corners had been stepped back to further reduce the bulk, but he had decided since then that it was more important to have the building keep the grid pattern and frame the square; he thought that in this way the library could be set off more effectively. The break in the grid where 8th Street would have come through was then marked with a wider entrance opening than was shown before, for added emphasis on the axis.

Mr. Ventulett went on to explain that the amount of setback from the street was dictated by the required prefunction space associated with the ballroom. He thought additional breathing room for the library might be gained by incorporating a paving and planting scheme at the rear of the

library that would function as a forecourt to the convention center.

In addressing the ballroom roof, Mr. Ventulett noted that it would cover a very large space (60,000 square feet) requiring a minumum ceiling height of 35 to 40 feet. He said the architects had studied a number of roof configurations, including one that was shifted 90 degrees, creating a large arch the length of the ballroom facing south on axis with 8th Street. However, it was considered too overpowering and the architects returned to a barrel-vaulted scheme somewhat lower in profile than the one shown originally to the Commission.

Referring to the south facade, Mr. Ventulett stated that the original cornice height had been 110 feet, a figure derived from the required floor-to-floor ceiling heights in the exhibit hall. However, in manipulating these interior heights, the architects managed to lower the cornice to 100 feet. This, in turn, allowed them to lower the facade terraces from 80 to 70 feet, a figure more in scale with the library. Overall, Mr. Ventulett hoped that this lower height would provide added flexibility and help cup the space, with Tech World at the south and the library as the centerpiece.

In describing the details of the south facade, the architect referred to the proposed entrance canopy which "slides" into the slot centered on the facade. It would accent the former 8th Street right-of-way. As such, the canopy would lead the visitor into a space designed to draw the eye up to a glassy skylit pedestrian bridge crossing "L" Street on the 8th Street axis.

The Chairman thought the expression of the 8th Street axis was much improved. He commented that the axis went straight down to the Hirshhorn Museum, and he noted the curvilinear elements along the way: the Hirshhorn, the National Gallery Sculpture Garden pool, and the Market Square development. He thought the Carnegie Library already had some beautiful park space on the south side, and he didn't think a lot could be done on the north side, given the conditions, except to add enough landscaping to bring about some sense of enclosure. He thought that bringing down the cornice had helped a lot in minimizing the apparent size of the building and made the concave curve above more visible and more effective in creating a welcoming feeling. He commented also that he preferred the glassy tower concept at the corners.

Ms. Diamonstein thought the facade needed further reductions and more humanizing, and she still objected to the shape of the ballroom roof; she thought the curvature Mr. Ventulett wanted could be expressed on the interior but not on the exterior, and she thought the ballroom itself might be

just too large. She also expressed concern about the Carnegie Library--both in regard to its relationship with the Convention Center and its future use.

Ms. Malino was concerned with the inside height of the ballroom --for its enormous size she thought a ceiling height of 35 feet was too low. Mrs. Rafshoon commented on the wider entrance on the 8th Street axis, feeling that it was much improved and gave the library more breathing space. Mrs. Brody asked about the materials, including paving. Mr. Ventulett said they would include limestone, glass, and brick; he thought the use of brick where the building would face residential scale development would add a sense of scale and would humanize the building. Mr. Purnell commented on the tremendous change in glass technology over the past ten years, saying that the glass for the convention center would be virtually clear but would have nearly the insulating quality of a solid wall. Mrs. Brody asked that the Commission see material samples at some point during the design development phase, and she also asked to see the entrance canopy in more detail.

The Chairman asked if anyone outside the Commission would like to comment. Sally Berk, president of the D.C. Preservation League, was the first to speak. She said her organization did not endorse the site but had been working with the Convention Center Authority to make sure the building was as good as it could be. Their recommendations were to lower the cornice of the south facade so that it would better recognize the library, even if the balcony were lost; deepen and widen the opening at the entrance that was intended to recognize the line of 8th Street so that it was as wide as the street; and place the roof back as far as possible from the south facade. Also recommended was the lining of the space in front of the building with trees.

Ms. Berk thought the Commission might be interested in knowing that the mayor had been negotiating with Sony for the Carnegie Library; she said perhaps Sony would continue in Mr. Carnegie's philanthropic tradition and donate the building to the city for a museum. Ms. Berk's last comment was on demolitions in the area; she said she hoped there could be a moratorium until the plans for the whole area were in place and potential landmarks had been identified. She asked the Commission to consider writing a letter to the mayor and the City Council in support of such a temporary moratorium.

Kent Cooper, representing several urban design and architectural organizations, also asked to speak. He said he thought the Convention Center was a very large building being put into a neighborhood that was too small for it, but he conceded that it was useless to oppose the site. He said his

concern at this point was the truck approach to the loading docks; he thought the plan to take them up 9th Street was unnecessarily disruptive, and they should go underground on New York Avenue near Mount Vernon Place. He showed diagrams of both routes.

In reply, Mr. Purnell went through the whole proposal for truck access, noting that both L Street and 9th Street would be changed to 2-way traffic; he said that no truck would ever have to sit on the street. He also showed the approach for taxis and for pedestrian traffic, both from Metro and through the front entrance on Mount Vernon Square.

There was no further discussion, and the Chairman thanked the applicants for their presentation of further developments in the design. No action was necessary. Exhibit B

C. General Services Administration

CFA 22/MAY/97-3, Ronald Reagan Building/International Trade Center. Federal Triangle. Security elements, flags and banners, awnings. Design. Mr. Carson introduced Robert Hixon from GSA, who then introduced architect Craig Dumas from Pei Cobb Freed to make the presentation. Mr. Dumas first brought the members up to date on progress made on various Federal Triangle projects. He said the plaza was nearly finished, completion of the Ariel Rios (former Post Office Department) building had started, the Straus Fountain across from the Commerce Department was back in place, and the International Trade Center people were getting ready to move into the Reagan Building.

Mr. Dumas noted that the General Services Administration was working on a general plan for security devices for the entire Federal Triangle; therefore, final plans for the Reagan Building would be held in abeyance until that was completed. He showed drawings of the 14th Street frontage, pointing out the stepped terraces and planters expected to be part of the security system. He also showed designs for guardbooths to be located at 14th Street and 13 1/2 Street; these would be erected in conjunction with retractable bollards, at the street or possibly farther back. The members were pleased with the guardbooth designs, feeling they harmonized well with the new building.

The Chairman asked about trash removal for the District Building, once the new addition was completed. Mr. Dumas pointed out a sidewalk lift near the new south entrance, and the Chairman was concerned that it would be an eyesore in such a prominent place. He asked Mr. Dumas if the trucks could not go underground, and Mr. Dumas said there had been some discussion of that and it was possible, but apparently cost

had been a consideration. The Chairman thought it was worth reopening the discussion.

Mr. Dumas then turned to the awning proposals. For the public entrance to the Trade Center, at the rotunda on Pennsylvania Avenue, quarter-sphere dark blue awnings were proposed; these were intended to indicate that this was a commercial, rather than governmental, entrance. Four banners were also proposed between the awnings, to be hung above the vitrines already existing. Ms. Diamonstein asked if the banners would not be redundant, given the existence of the vitrines. Mr. Dumas said the vitrines gave detailed information, while the banners were expected to be seen from a distance and would add color and a festive air, with only minimal information. Ms. Malino thought both awnings and banners seemed like added-on elements and were in conflict with the architecture. The Vice-Chairman agreed, and he suggested that the banners might be placed in the plaza rather than directly on the building. Ms. Diamonstein, too, thought there were too many appendages on the building. Mrs. Brody, although not disagreeing, thought that the entrance was different from the governmental office entrances and should have some kind of distinctive marking. The Chairman thought the banners were too small; if they were larger, the awnings could be omitted. He found the awnings the more objectionable of the two added elements.

Mr. Dumas then showed an awning design for the restaurant pavilion; these were simple shed-type awnings over the double doors, and there were no objections to them in that location. He also showed lights to be mounted on the wall on either side of the restaurant entrance, located in the arcade. There were no objections.

A pair of flagpoles flanking the main entrance on Pennsylvania Avenue was not approved; it was thought that the large flagpoles across the street on Freedom Plaza were enough. A ring of 40-foot banner/pennant poles at the entrance to the plaza was considered a bit excessive, but the pair of similar standards in the sunken Metro hemicycle seemed appropriate. Finally, four banners on poles projecting from the building at the entrance at the end of 13 1/2 Street were approved. Exhibit C

D. Department of the Treasury

CFA 22/MAY/97-4 United States Mint. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial commemorative one-dollar silver coin. Designs. Staff member Sue Kohler outlined the review process for these coins for the benefit of the new members, noting that the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee and the board of the National Law Enforcement Officers

Memorial Foundation had already indicated their preferences. She said they both preferred the obverse design showing a male and female officer at the memorial wall, but had selected different reverse designs. She passed around the preferred designs and also others that had not been chosen. Mrs. Kohler then introduced Leah Akbar from the Mint.

Ms. Akbar said the designs had been prepared by sculptor-engravers at the Mint and had been reviewed by focus groups of numismatists; she noted that these groups did not relate to the depictions of the memorial's lion sculptures on some of the designs. She asked Lynn Lyons from the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Foundation for her comments. Ms. Lyons said she had shown the designs to nearly 1,700 people attending National Police Week at the memorial, and fifty percent had preferred the design showing the two officers for the obverse, with sixty-five percent choosing the reverse design with the rose within a shield, the logo of the Foundation. This had also been the choice of the Foundation, although the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee had preferred a design showing the lion sculpture within the shield.

The members looked at all the designs and agreed with the choices of the Foundation. On the reverse, they asked that the sprigs of ivy on either side of the shield be removed, and also the "dots" on either side of "One Dollar". The Vice-Chairman pointed out that on the obverse the woman officer's right foot was not drawn correctly, and the Mint was asked to correct this. With these recommendations, the designs were unanimously approved. Exhibit D

E. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

CFA 22/MAY/97-5, North and south parking deck extensions; revised entrance drive approach. Further studies. Conceptual. (Previous: CFA 19/OCT/95-11.) Mr. Carson introduced James Kirkman, project executive, from the Kennedy Center, to begin the presentation. Mr. Kirkman noted that the Department of the Interior had just given its approval to the project. He said the architectural work was being done by Benjamin Thompson Associates, and the landscaping by Sasaki Associates. He asked Ken Lewandowski from Thompson Associates to discuss the proposals.

Mr. Lewandoski began with the revised entrance drive. He recalled first the existing unsatisfactory approach up a steep ramp from New Hampshire Avenue and along the side of the building, and he noted the circulation pattern which brought buses and trucks right up to the main entrance. He showed drawings with a revised entrance at the northeast corner of the site--from 25th Street on the east side of the Saudi embassy building. He commented that approaching the building

at an angle would set the building in its context and make the entrance points apparent to the approaching visitor. Bus access would be farther to the east with parking for buses moved to the far (south) end of the site. A service tunnel would keep truck traffic and functions out of sight. Automobile parking would be extended at both ends of the building with plazas on top and exits and entrances provided at each end.

Dave Mittelstadt from Sasaki Associates spoke next. He noted that the building had originally been sited in a park-like setting, and that a larger landscape context was formed by the Potomac River and the E Street Expressway. He said his firm hoped to create a kind of setting that would stand up to the scale of this larger concept, still maintain the formality and symmetry around the building itself, and add less formal landscaping farther out on the site. He showed drawings of the proposals, noting especially the landscaping to screen the bus parking and the planting of rows of willow trees along the new plazas above the extended parking, to reinforce the actual building form.

The members were pleased with the plans, especially with the new entrance and circulation pattern, and unanimously approved the concept designs. The Chairman, as an ex officio member of the Kennedy Center Board, noted for the record that he did not vote. Exhibit E

F. Smithsonian Institution

1. CFA 22/MAY/97-6, National Air and Space Museum. Pedestrian guardrails at areaways. (Previous: CFA 17/MAR/94-9.) Staff member José Martínez introduced Harry Rombach from the Smithsonian to begin the presentation. Mr. Rombach reported that there had been some design changes because they were unable to get stone that matched the building. He introduced Suman Sorg from Sorg Associates to discuss the changes.

Ms. Sorg pointed out the location for the guardrails, on the ramp and stairwell walls along the Independence Avenue facade. As matching stone could not be found, the old capstones on the walls would be left in place and minimalist, looped steel railings installed on top. They would be painted to match the trim on the building, with perforated aluminum panels filling in the open ends. Shrubs 2-4 feet high would be planted along the walls, with trees 12-20 feet high planted in the stairwells. There were no objections to this change in the design, and it was unanimously approved. Exhibit F

2. CFA 22/MAY/97-7, National Air and Space Museum. Exterior glass replacement for exhibit areas. Inspection

results. (Previous: CFA 14/DEC/95-2/) Mr. Martínez noted for the record that the Commission had looked at glass samples at the museum during their pre-meeting tour, and the Chairman asked Ms. Diamonstein to report on the reaction. She recalled first the statement of one of the Convention Center architects that glass technology had improved to the extent that dark glass was no longer necessary to protect artifacts from harmful light. Then she said the members noted that most of the objects exposed to light were airplanes or space vehicles made of metal, and those that had fabric as one of their components had already had the fabric replaced, so it was no longer original material that was being exposed to light. Also, the feeling among the members was that it would have been desirable, architecturally, for the building to have had even lighter glass than that now existing. Ms. Malino commented that she had been associated with the architects of the building at one time, after it was built, and had heard many references to it, and that the whole idea of the glass wall was to have it as clear as possible so that the objects could be seen from a distance. Given that design philosophy, it did not seem desirable to replace the existing glass with something even darker.

Mr. Rombach said there had been a real conflict at the Smithsonian about this matter, with the curators insisting that objects were being damaged by the degree of visible light, not ultra-violet, that came through the existing glass. The Chairman said one way to minimize this was to cover fragile objects when the museum was not open. He said there had to be a balance, that objects don't last for an infinite amount of time, and that while reasonable care had to be taken, there were other considerations. He thought the Commission could allow new glass of the same degree of darkness as the existing glass, but no darker. The other members agreed with him, and that was the action transmitted to the Smithsonian. Exhibit F

(Ms. Diamonstein left the meeting at this point.)

G. District of Columbia Government Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Old Georgetown Act

Appendix I. The Appendix was approved without objection.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. SL 97-48, 1300 Maryland Avenue, S.W. The Portals. New hotel. Conceptual. Mr. Martínez pointed out the site on an aerial photograph, pointing out the

relationship to the 14th Street Bridge, the railroad tracks and Maryland Avenue. He said the Commission had seen the plans for the complex, called The Portals, some years ago and reviewed the designs for the two office buildings now on the site. He noted the site reserved for a hotel and recalled that the original design had been the work of Arthur Cotton Moore, the architect for the two existing buildings. That had not materialized and now the hotel was being designed by the firms of Brennan Beer Gorman Monk, and Hogan, Ota, Rasche. Mr. Martínez introduced Mark Boekenheine and David Beer to make the presentation.

Mr. Boekenheine was the first to speak. He recalled that the first design was for a very grand hotel, and he said the current project was for a more modest, although still four-star, hotel with 500 rooms for the Swissôtel chain. He said his firm had been meeting with various people involved with the site, including the developer for the hotel, Charles Akerman; the developer for the site, Republic Properties; the Redevelopment Land Agency; and the original architect, Arthur Cotton Moore. He said they had kept much of the character of the original design and that Mr. Moore was supportive of their efforts. He noted the importance of the view corridor along the Maryland Avenue right-of-way and said the building had been set back in order to respect that view corridor. Tower elements would correspond to those on the existing buildings, and other elements of the design would respect the massing of future buildings planned for the other side of the railroad tracks.__Mr. Boekenheine said the major change had been the reduction in the amount of public space and the downsizing of the rooms, which had enabled them to keep the original footprint, get more rooms per floor and eliminate one floor altogether. The height, however, would remain the same as height had been added to the ground floor spaces and to the ceiling heights in the typical floors.

David Beer continued the presentation. He discussed the plan, the layout of the public rooms, and the increase in the number of rooms with a view; Mr. Boekenheine described the vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns and the loading dock facilities. Mr. Beer noted that the top floor was set back, respecting the layering seen in the two office buildings.

The Chairman asked the architects if the reason for submittal was approval of what they had done with the previously-approved master plan. Mr. Boekenheine said they were looking for some feed-back as to whether, conceptually, they were headed in the right direction with the design, basing it on Arthur Cotton Moore's original concept. The Chairman said he had no objection, but he commented that the buildings that had already been built had a rather "paper thin" quality, and he hoped that the hotel could have a more

solid feeling. There were no other comments, and the conceptual design was then unanimously approved. Exhibit G

(Mrs. Brody left the meeting at this point.)

b. Appendix II. The Appendix was approved without objection.

H. District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development

CFA 22/MAY/97-8 Washington Marina, Maine Avenue. Installation of helipad, business offices and ancillary structures for sightseeing company. Conceptual. Mr. Martínez noted that the site for the helipad was across Maine Avenue from the hotel project just reviewed. He said it was on District land that had been leased to the Washington Marina, and the Marina wanted to sublease it to the helicopter tour service. Mr. Martínez said he understood the FAA had approved the site for helicopter use and had also approved the route the helicopters would take. He introduced one of the owners of Capital Helicopters, Steve Sheik, to make the presentation.

Mr. Sheik said his organization was based at Montgomery County Airport and had been operating helicopters around the District for several years. He said they had been looking for a metropolitan landing site for some time, and this one met all the safety standards and was well within the metropolitan area, close to the people it would serve. It was also somewhat hidden in that it was bounded by several bridges carrying heavy traffic and by Maine Avenue, with six lanes of traffic. He said they were proposing to put on the site a prefabricated office structure, raised slightly off the ground to avoid foundations in the swampy location, and a steel tube hangar structure covered in vinyl; it, too, would be a semi-permanent structure with no foundation. There would also be an 8-foot high wood fence placed on the inside of an existing chain link fence for further security and noise abatement. Two concrete walkways and a 20 by 20-foot concrete pad for the helicopter would complete the development on the site. Mr. Sheik then discussed the FAA approval, safety factors, the small size of the helicopter and its low noise level.

The Chairman thought Mr. Sheik had presented his case very well, but he said he was not convinced; he thought the site was too near the major memorials and the Mall. The noise would be objectionable, as would the appearance from the water. He asked Mr. Sheik if the ANC had seen this and was told that it had been presented, that a motion against the project had failed, and the ANC thus had no stance on the matter. The Chairman brought up the new hotel and the effect the noise would have on the guests. Mr. Sheik said, first,

that the helicopters would not operate at night, and as it would be at least two years before the hotel would be completed, their operation could be made conditional on working with the developers of the hotel.

There was further discussion with Mr. Sheik and questions from the members. Mr. Carson commented that the District still had not approved the project and was asking the Commission not only if the structures were aesthetically acceptable, but whether the function was appropriate for the site. The Chairman thought the time had come for a vote, and the Vice-Chairman moved that the Commission advise the District Government that the proposed use was not appropriate for the site. The motion was carried and the vote was unanimous to disapprove the project. Exhibit H

The meeting was then adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

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202-504-2195 FAX

EXHIBIT A

5 June 1997

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

The members were pleased to see you and your colleagues during the Commission meeting of 22 May 1997. As you know, any item concerning the White House is of the greatest importance. This is especially true of the current proposal to "harden" the perimeter against vehicular intrusion, which would effect a major change on the appearance of the White House grounds. In this respect, the tour you provided earlier in the day was of enormous help to our present and future deliberations.

The south perimeter security program which focuses on the Sherman Memorial, First Division Memorial and "E" Street has much to recommend it. The low retaining walls around the Sherman site are an excellent "landscape" approach to a difficult situation. The four new gates proposed throughout the project would reflect, at a smaller scale, the character and quality of the north gates on Pennsylvania Avenue. However, where granite is the preferred material of choice for both the retaining walls and gate piers, a color in the range of the existing materials on the site should be considered over the carnelian presented. Incidently, this change to a lighter more neutral color may improve the look of the proposed guard stations, which we hope to see at a later date.

The First Division Memorial presents more of a challenge. Its terrain is relatively flat and open. Instead of the harder-edged environment of the Sherman Memorial, the grounds are less structured and formal. This characteristic does not lend itself well to masonry barriers. The Commission suggests continuing the ornamental metal bollards uninterrupted around the corners, especially on 17th Street, so as to keep the historic vista open. If there is a problem with pedestrians entering the park at a diagonal, a deft introduction of landscape material and/or chains between bollards should discourage that habit.

Finally, the Commission looked closely at the interim closure of a portion of East Executive Drive as it rounds President's Park onto "E" Street. Stone-faced Jersey barriers are inappropriate. The members suggest the use of planters which give the impression of being movable and,

therefore, temporary. The Commission looks forward to a review of the whole security package as the design develops.

On a different note, the Commission anticipates a presentation of the Draft Master Plan for the White House Precinct during its June meeting. While time prevented a similar presentation in May, the members did chat informally about the Plan. It was perhaps fortuitous because certain concerns were raised that were not properly covered in the document. The ensuing month will give you time to address the Pennsylvania Avenue closure for example. The situation as it currently exists is a poor reflection on the management of this issue. You might also address the need for a visitor tunnel under 15th Street and, more pointedly, the potential psychological effect on tourists confined to an underground passage as they wait to visit the White House. Finally, the Plan does not address security measures for the White House Precinct as a whole. Will the south perimeter security program tie in with or influence the remainder of the complex? It would be to our mutual interest if these questions could be clarified before the June meeting. I know the Secretary and other staff members would be happy to meet with you at any time.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. James I. McDaniel
Director, White House Liaison
National Park Service
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2728

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EXHIBIT B

5 June 1997

Dear Mr. Lew:

The Commission was pleased to see you and your consultants during our meeting of 22 May on an information basis to discuss current studies for the proposed D.C. Convention Center. A structure of such extraordinary size, better than two-and-one-half times the footprint of the United States Capitol Building, requires the utmost care and deliberation with respect to design review.

The Commission has focused on only two areas of the design. In this regard, the architects have worked hard to resolve several issues relative to these specific points of concern. However, it seems that neither the roof structure over the ballroom nor the south entrance facade have yet been satisfactorily resolved.

At 60,000 square feet, the ballroom would be approximately the size of a football field. If there were a way of architecturally articulating this space to give the impression of three smaller, more humanly-scaled rooms, perhaps this could provide a means to articulate the roof in a similar manner.

As for the south entrance facade, the Commission is taken with the idea of an embracing curve as a means to reduce its scale. As a note of caution, while much has been said about the importance of acknowledging the 8th Street axis, overemphasis would be a serious mistake. Providing a shallow notch (or even a slight projection) in the curvature of the facade might be a useful scale-breaking tool. On the other hand, a deep notch or break could be construed as an arbitrary and awkward gesture to the detriment of what should be one of the most important facades in Washington.

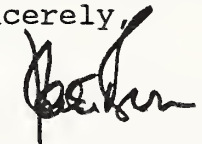
Inevitably, discussion of the south facade leads to the disposition of the old Carnegie library and its grounds. The Commission appreciates the fact that the grounds and building are designated landmarks. However, this landmark will be seen as the entrance pavilion and forecourt to the center and, as such, even landmarks must occasionally adjust to changes in the surrounding urban pattern, density and use, especially

when the landmark is a public one. In several ways, this situation is not unlike the landmark New York Public Library and Bryant Park in New York City. Derelict for years, Bryant Park has been brought back to vibrant life by a major renovation. The situation at Mount Vernon Square, though certainly not shabby, requires an intervention at least as vigorous. Again, the Commission asks that your consultants focus on this issue and consider it part and parcel of the Convention Center package as a whole.

Lastly, the Commission was pleased that the consultants touched on the bridge structure over "L" Street. We have not considered this aspect of the project in any detail. However, bridging over two major east-west commuter arteries is of considerable concern to the members. The scale and design of these structures will have significant consequence well beyond the confines of the Convention Center itself. While "L" Street seems to be reaching resolution, "M" Street presents a far greater challenge. The street, in this instance, would become a low underpass more or less for the sole use of the center with the exception of pedestrian through traffic. We all know what a wall can do to a street vista; the current view looking north on 10th Street toward the existing convention center is a stark case in point. The design for "M" Street needs to be exceptional.

The Commission looks forward to your next presentation which we understand will be your first "formal" design review submission. While there are a number of issues still outstanding, we are confident they will be resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Allen Y. Lew
Managing Director of Development
Washington Convention Center Authority
900 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

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EXHIBIT C

5 June 1997

Dear Mr. Hixon:

The Commission was pleased to see you during its meeting of 22 May 1997. As the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center nears completion, it has become increasingly clear that our goals have been met for an addition to the Federal Triangle of a building of dignity and distinction. However, the unusual circumstances governing this building, commercial functions within a federal facility contained within the Federal Triangle complex, require the introduction of elements rarely associated with the complex: advertising. As compared to this, it seems easier to deal with an issue that is often more difficult: security.

In compliance with the Executive Directive requiring appropriate security measures for federal buildings, alterations to the Reagan Building, now nearing completion, must be made. As the Commission understands it, however, introduction of security elements at the public sidewalk will be held in abeyance pending the outcome of the General Services Administration security study for the Federal Triangle as a whole. In the meantime, the Commission was shown guardhouse designs for the garage entrances off Pennsylvania Avenue and 14th Street. The members were pleased with the designs, noting that the materials and character of the proposed structures would reflect the spirit of the building they are intended to protect.

The issue of banners, flags, and awnings was a bit thornier. The Commission appreciates the need to enliven the Reagan Building. While this structure contains federal agencies, it also shelters a significant commercial endeavor requiring certain external elements designed to draw the potential customer. With the exception of the Old Post Office, nowhere else in the Federal Triangle is there such a need. The trick is to provide the right balance of color and advertising without degrading the building. In this respect, as submitted, there were winners and losers.

The banner flags over the 13 1/2 Street entrance were just right: large and festive. The open-ended shed-type awnings at the octagonal pavilion are also a welcome addition. While the pair of flag/banner standards within the sunken courtyard make sense, the circle of flag/banner standards on

Pennsylvania Avenue marking 13th Street may be a little overwrought, and the pair of flag-poles marking the mid-block entrance on Pennsylvania Avenue seem unnecessary in view of the other flag poles in the immediate vicinity. The Commission also focused special attention on the rotunda entrances. In the final analysis the members decided that the semicircular awnings were too commercial, stiff and architectural and could detract from the dignity of the building. On the other hand, increasing the vertical length of the lighted banners between the entrance ways could provide a more elegant gesture.

As an aside, the Commission is concerned that waste removal and delivery service for the Wilson (District Building) will be at grade. With major building entrances on either side of the service road, the result will be embarrassing no matter how well choreographed. A resolution is at hand. The members understand that the Reagan Building provides an underground service connection with the Wilson Building and that a break-out wall is the only barrier to making it serviceable. Every effort should be made to ensure that this preferable alternative is put into effect.

The Commission looks forward to a review of all the proposed external features as the designs develop. Meanwhile, the staff is available should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Robert C. Hixon, Jr.
Project Executive
Ronald Reagan Building
and International Trade Center
Project Staff
General Services Administration
National Capital Region
Washington, D.C. 20407

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EXHIBIT D

5 June 1997

Dear Mr. Diehl:

At its meeting on 22 May the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial silver dollar commemorative coin.

The Commission agreed with the other review bodies that the obverse showing the two police officers at the memorial wall was the best of the designs submitted, and it was unanimously approved. The only recommendation was that the position of the female officer's left foot be studied further and rendered so that it is anatomically correct.

For the reverse, the Commission preferred the design that showed the shield and the rose, the choice of the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. It was unanimously approved with the requirement that the leafy branches on the right and left, as well as the "dots" before and after "One Dollar" be removed.

It is noted that several of the mandatory inscriptions, such as the date and the word "Liberty", do not appear on either design, and others are repeated. Changes made to correct this should be brought to the staff for final review.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

The Honorable Philip N. Diehl, Director
United States Mint
633 3rd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

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EXHIBIT E

5 June 1997

Dear Mr. Kirkman:

The Commission was pleased to see you on 22 May 1997 during its concept review of the parking garage extensions and site modifications proposed for the Kennedy Center. The scheme is well on its way to rectifying a host of problems that have plagued the Center since its opening day, and was unanimously approved.

The terraces over the garage extensions provide not only a visual platform on which the building may rest more comfortably, but space for additional outdoor functions. The new entrance drive and plaza design provides far better approaches to the building. The landscaping is also a great improvement.

The Commission understands that a later phase of review will include changes to the river terrace and facade as well as an impressive connection between the terrace and river walk. As you know, the Commission has gone on record in enthusiastic support of such an endeavor in the belief that a stair would embellish and enliven the waterfront as well as humanize the scale of that long, unrelieved facade overlooking the river.

The members look forward to continued review of this project as it materializes and offer the services of the staff should any questions arise.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. James Kirkman
Project Executive
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Washington, D.C. 20566-0001

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EXHIBIT F

5 June 1997

Dear Mr. Rombach:

During its meeting 22 May 1997, the Commission reviewed two projects for the National Air and Space Museum: the safety guardrails at the stair areaways and vehicular ramps, and the exterior reglazing of the exhibit halls.

The design of the proposed guardrails was approved without objection. The minimalistic tubular system is simple, unobtrusive, and an acceptable alternative to the previous design shown three years ago. We understand that landscaping will be an additional deterrent to people climbing on the areaway walls.

With respect to the proposed reglazing, the members were strongly against such a dark tint for the glass curtain walls overlooking the Mall, particularly after the morning's site visit to look at the samples. The visibility of the exhibits from the outside was an integral part of the original design and should be maintained. The current sense of transparency is essential not only to the aesthetic appearance of the building but to the enjoyment of the public for which it is intended. We encourage the Smithsonian to continue researching other technologies and products to meet curatorial concerns.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Harry Rombach, R.A.
Assistant Director for Facilities Planning
Smithsonian Institution
955 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Suite 3230
Washington, D.C. 20024

22 May 1997

EXHIBIT G

AGENDA ITEM EXHIBIT

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 97-48	1300 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Ackerman and Company Swissotel	New building - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design for proposed hotel building as part of The Portals. Recommend careful attention to detail to provide a sense of solidity and quality. Submit additional design development and samples of materials for review by the Commission as they become available.

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EXHIBIT H

5 June 1997

Dear Mr. Clarke:

During its meeting 22 May 1997 the Commission reviewed the Capital Helicopters' proposed helipad at the Washington Marina Company site on the Southwest Waterfront. We would like to respond to your request for comments on the appropriateness of this project at this location.

We are aware of major plans to improve this area, as it is one of the most important entranceways to the District and its monumental core. A four-star hotel is proposed just across Maine Avenue from the helipad site. It seems to us that a helipad would adversely impact the hotel as well as the original intent of the waterfront, while providing a sightseeing experience to a mere handful of visitors.

In any event, in terms of the structures needed to run this operation, we cannot approve the junky appearance of the proposed hangar and office trailer.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Leopold Clarke, Acting Chief
Division of New Housing and Commercial Development
Government of the District of Columbia
51 N Street, N.E., Room 500
Washington, D.C. 20002

cc. Steve Sheik